

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ provided with, comprising:  
~~—~~ means, (2) arranged on ~~the~~ an upper side of the frame, for connecting ~~thereof the frame~~ to at least two hoisting cables ~~(3)~~ suspended at a mutual distance in a longitudinal direction of the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~; and  
means (4), arranged on ~~the~~ an underside of the frame, for picking up at least one secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~, wherein ~~characterized in that the frame (1) is adjustable in a~~ transverse direction between a retracted position, in which ~~its~~ a transverse dimension of the frame is at most equal to that of the secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~, and an extended position in which ~~its~~ the transverse dimension is larger than that of the secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~, and wherein the ~~pick-up means (4) for picking up~~ are adapted to for picking up a single secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~ in the retracted position and ~~to~~ for picking up two mutually adjacent secondary hoisting frames ~~(5)~~ in the extended position.

2. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame ~~(1)~~ is divided in the longitudinal direction, the frame parts ~~(10)~~ are movable relative to each other at least in the transverse direction and the ~~pick-up means (4) comprise~~ for picking up includes a number of pick-up elements ~~(11)~~ distributed over the frame parts ~~(10)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized by further comprising:~~  
controllable means ~~(12)~~ for moving the frame parts ~~(10)~~ away from and toward each other.

4. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the moving-controllable means ~~(12)~~ comprise ~~includes~~ at least one member ~~(13)~~ of adjustable length which connects the frame parts ~~(10)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the moving-controllable means ~~(12)~~ comprise ~~includes~~ at least one actuator ~~(7,8,9,16,31)~~ co-acting with the at least one connecting member ~~(13)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the at least one connecting member ~~(13)~~ is a pivotable arm.

7. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the arm ~~(13)~~ is pivotable substantially parallel to a main plane of the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of the claims 5-7~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the at least one pivotable arm ~~(13)~~ is connected to the frame part ~~(10)~~ via a pivot ~~(24)~~, and the actuator ~~(7,8,9,31)~~ is arranged between the arm ~~(13)~~ and the pivot ~~(24)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of the claims 5-8~~, ~~characterized by claim 6, wherein~~ at least two pivotable arms ~~(13)~~ are included, which are each moveable by at least one associated actuator ~~(7,8,9,16,31)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two actuators ~~(7,8,9,16,31)~~ are connected to at least one of the pivotable arms ~~(13)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the pivotable arms ~~(13)~~ are arranged substantially symmetrically relative to a transverse centre line ~~(C<sub>T</sub>)~~ of the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~, and wherein the arms ~~(13)~~ on opposite sides of the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ are pivotable in opposite directions.

12. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in any of the claims 6-11, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein each pivotable arm (13) is substantially symmetrical relative to a longitudinal centre line (C<sub>L</sub>-L) of the hoisting frame (1).

13. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in any of the claims 2-12, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein the connecting means (2) ~~are adapted to~~ for connecting the hoisting frame (1) to at least two pairs of hoisting cables (3) suspended at a distance from each other in the longitudinal direction of the hoisting frame (1), and are divided in the longitudinal direction such that each frame part (10) ~~can be connected~~ is connectable to at least two hoisting cables (3).

14. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting means (2) ~~comprise~~ includes cable pulleys (14), and wherein each frame part (10) carries at least two cable pulleys (14) placed at a distance from each other in longitudinal direction.

15. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that~~ wherein the pick-up elements (11) are placed substantially straight under the cable pulleys (14) in the extended position of the hoisting frame (1).

16. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein in the extended position the frame (1) is adjustable in the transverse direction in order to vary a space (D) between the two secondary hoisting frames (5).

17. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in any of the claims 2-16, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein the frame parts (10) are pivotable relative to each other in the plane of the hoisting frame (1).

18. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame (1) ~~as claimed in any of the claims 2-17, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein the frame parts (10) are pivotable relative to each other transversely of the plane of the hoisting frame (1).

19. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claims 14 ~~and 18~~, ~~characterized by, further comprising~~ at least one actuator ~~(18,19)~~ arranged between the rotation axis ~~(36)~~ of one of the cable pulleys ~~(14)~~ and the frame part ~~(10)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of the claims 2-19~~, ~~characterized in that claim 2, wherein~~ the frame parts ~~(10)~~ are movable relative to each other in the longitudinal direction.

21. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~, ~~characterized in that the or~~ each claim 1, wherein the secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~ is adjustable in the longitudinal direction.

22. (Currently Amended) Method for transferring loads ~~(6)~~, ~~in particular containers~~, comprising the steps of:

a) lowering a hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1 at a first location,

b) picking up one load ~~(6)~~ at the first location when the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ is retracted, or two loads ~~(6)~~ when the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ is extended,

c) lifting the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ with the picked-up at least one load(s) ~~(6)~~,

d) displacing the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ with the picked-up at least one load(s) ~~(6)~~ to a second location,

e) lowering the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ with the picked-up at least one load(s) ~~(6)~~ at the second location,

f) uncoupling the at least one load(s) ~~(6)~~ from the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~,

g) lifting the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~,

h) moving the hoisting frame ~~(1)~~ from its retracted to its extended position or from its extended to its retracted position, wherein a secondary hoisting frame ~~(5)~~ is coupled on or uncoupled, and

i) repeating steps (a) to (g).

23. (New) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least one connecting member is a pivotable arm.

24. (New) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one pivotable arm is connected to the frame part via a pivot, and the actuator is arranged between the arm and the pivot.

25. (New) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one pivotable arm is connected to the frame part via a pivot, and the actuator is arranged between the arm and the pivot.

26. (New) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pivotable arms are arranged substantially symmetrically relative to a transverse centre line of the hoisting frame, and wherein the arms on opposite sides of the hoisting frame are pivotable in opposite directions.

27. (New) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 18, further comprising at least one actuator arranged between the rotation axis of one of the cable pulleys and the frame part.

28. (New) Method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method is for transferring containers.